

gay COMMUNITY NEWS

NOV 29-DEC 5, 1987

VOLUME 15

NO 20

BIPAD 65498

\$1.00

FOR FIFTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

Senate gives Mass. les/gay bill nod

But further delay tactics by opponents threaten the enactment of the legislation

By Elizabeth Pincus

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Senate voted 20-15 in favor of legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The decision came on Nov. 23, just hours after a spirited demonstration on the State House steps by supporters of the gay rights bill, H.5469. The bill, carrying several Senate-endorsed amendments, now goes to a Committee for Third Reading for what is normally a perfunctory review.

If the measure is approved by the committee, it could conceivably reach Gov. Michael Dukakis to be signed into law before the legislative calendar closes on Jan. 5, 1988. Dukakis has indicated his support of the bill. However, Senate rules allow the Committee for Third Reading to sit on the legislation for 45 days, which would prevent action on the bill until the legislative year ends — effectively killing it. Similar measures have been introduced repeatedly on Beacon Hill without success for the last fourteen years.

Advocates of the gay legislation explained their worry that Senate adversaries may take advantage of legislative process to squelch the bill. They charge that bill opponents

have already prolonged the process for nearly four weeks by using inappropriate delaying tactics. The circulation of controversial safer sex literature on the Senate and House floors, as well as accusations of homophobia and ignorance on the parts of some senators, have fueled tense and sometimes hostile debate. Now, key bill opponent Sen. Arthur Lewis, Jr. (D-Boston) said he may use his clout as chair of the Committee for Third Reading to keep the bill from resurfacing in time to be enacted.

Gay rights supporters explained that several strategies may be used to try and move the bill out of Lewis' committee. Although Senate President William Bulger (D-Boston) could be persuaded to put pressure on the committee, his firm opposition to the bill makes that development unlikely. A two-thirds majority vote by the Senate could also salvage the bill. Or Dukakis could attempt to sway the committee to approve the legislation, a move seen by some State House insiders as advantageous to his U.S. presidential campaign. According to some gay activists, Dukakis is out

Continued on page 3

Mass. holds minority AIDS conference

"Uninformed" new health department head is criticized for her statements

By Chris Bull

BOSTON — A combination of racism and homophobia on the part of the mainstream medical profession exacerbates the AIDS crisis in communities of color, according to Black and Latino activists at the Nov. 16 "Minority AIDS Conference."

The conference, held at the University of Massachusetts Harbor Campus, included a controversial speech by Deborah Prothrow-Stith, director of the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health. Prothrow-Stith, the first Black woman to head the department, encouraged an end to all "experimentation" with drugs and sex. "We could long for other times when young men could sow wild oats without consequences and when teens could experiment with drugs without consequences," she said.

Featured speakers at the conference included Emilio Carrillo of Harvard Medical School, Gloria Brown of the Dorchester Detox Center and Jean Richards of the Boston Community Health Intervention Project. Sponsored by Women Inc., the conference attempted to bring together local experts on AIDS in communities of color to share their experiences and to network between groups. Women Inc. is a non-profit agency dedicated to helping women "move from dependence on drugs, alcohol and public assistance to independent social

health and responsibility."

Prothrow-Stith stressed four points she said are essential to addressing AIDS in minority communities. She pushed for voluntary HIV testing because "testing positive will make people change their practices." "Guilt," she said, is an important factor in slowing the spread of the disease. She endorsed efforts to reduce "promiscuous and early adolescent sexual activity" and encouraged the state to fund drug treatment programs, including methadone maintenance. Finally, she encouraged the free distribution of condoms. When asked whether she also favored the free distribution of needles for IV drug users, she responded. "That doesn't sit right in my gut."

Prothrow-Stith said AIDS gives the state an opportunity to address drug abuse and teenage pregnancies in minority communities. She advocated extensive education about these issues in schools. During a speech at the Harvard School of Public Health, Prothrow-Stith told the audience that homosexuality need not be addressed during the minority AIDS conference because the issue has been addressed fully "in other conferences."

Several AIDS activists expressed anger at

Continued on page 3



Shoshana Rosenfeld

By Kim Westheimer

Dressed in the standard plaid parochial school outfits, 400 Boston Catholic girls streamed into the auditorium. As they took their seats, the racially mixed group whispered, giggled and passed notes. While they had been told this assembly would address AIDS, surely no one had prepared them for the nice Jewish dyke bearing somewhat sexually explicit material. Certainly the school's priest, who minutes earlier had been fighting to keep the word "condom" from being uttered in the auditorium, was nervous; he made sure to mention the "sanctity of love in marriage" in his opening prayer.

As the guest speaker, Shoshana Rosenfeld, an AIDS educator from the Department of Public Health, began asking the girls questions, it became obvious this was no ordinary assembly. "How many people have heard of AIDS?" (Most hands went up with giggles.) "How many know where it came from?" (A scattering of hands went up.) "How many people would be nervous if someone in school had AIDS?" (More than three-quarters of the hands shot up.)

Encouraging questions from the students, Rosenfeld began to lay out important facts about AIDS. "It's a disease people get when they practice certain behaviors. If you think only gay people or IV drug users can get it, that's a myth." Rosenfeld also stressed "there's no way in a normal school situation that you could get sick and infected with AIDS."

Before too long, Rosenfeld broached the topic of bodily fluids. "The virus is strong in certain bodily fluids...In order to make someone sick it has to get into your blood," she said. You could have heard a pin drop as Rosenfeld matter-of-factly listed the three bodily fluids thought to transmit the virus: blood, semen and vaginal secretions.

The students freely interrupted with questions during the presentation. Rosenfeld asked them to promise that no one would get teased about anything that happened during the assembly.

"What about french kissing?" asked one girl as everyone about her burst into giggles. Rosenfeld cautioned that it might be possible for the virus to be passed via french kissing, but added that such transmission has

not been documented and is very unlikely. She relayed researchers' estimates that five quarts of infected saliva would have to enter the blood stream to transmit the virus.

"Is it true that condoms are not that effective?" asked another girl. Rosenfeld responded that condoms are 100 percent effective in laboratories, but closer to 90 percent effective "when used by people."

"If you have sex with a boy and he doesn't ejaculate in you, can you still get AIDS?" asked a brave person. Later, Rosenfeld, who strives to create an atmosphere where the students feel safe to ask anything, said she knew it was a victory when that question was asked.

Another girl was brave enough to ask how AIDS is transmitted by lesbians. A chorus of incredulous groans greeted Rosenfeld's mention of oral contact with menstrual blood.

Two girls approached Rosenfeld after the presentation and asked why there was only one reported case of lesbian transmission of AIDS. Rosenfeld said she told the girls: "Lesbian health isn't often studied; medical researchers will often target men first. Historically that's the case with many public health problems. Look how much money goes into the study of heart disease versus other women's problems. I mean it took years to convince people that premenstrual syndrome was in fact a reality and not all in our heads. So I told them there might not be that many cases yet of lesbians who are infected but they may be seeing that more in the future.... Certainly lesbians aren't at any less risk than anyone else. They just might come in contact with the virus less frequently and therefore get infected less frequently."

Another girl asked whether a pregnant woman can pass the virus "on to her unborn child." Explaining that AIDS can be passed on prenatally, Rosenfeld shared the statistic that 80 to 90 percent of infants who have AIDS are Black or Latino. She spoke of the need for more AIDS education in communities of color.

"Why is it more minority children have AIDS?" a Black student asked shortly after Rosenfeld spoke about infants of color with AIDS. "It's not because they're Black. It

Continued on page 5

Quotes of the Week

“Who do they think they are to dictate to all Black people their fundamentalist beliefs? The bible is a good bedtime story, maybe, but it’s a fairy tale. It doesn’t move *me* — it doesn’t make *me* quiver and quake. My bible is Audre Lorde, and others like her who speak to my life.”

— *Black lesbian activist Angela Bowen, referring to a group of Black fundamentalist Christians who expressed vocal opposition to the Massachusetts gay rights bill during a pro-gay/lesbian demonstration at the State House.*

“Mixed Fabric is a sin: Jesus Loves Your Soul But Hates Your Wardrobe.”

— *Placard carried at the same demonstration by Sister Polly Esther of the Christian Coalition Against Mixed Fabrics. S/he refers to Leviticus 19:19 in the King James Bible which reads, “Neither shall a garment mingled of wollen and linen come upon thee.”*

Carolina fraternity sells controversial AIDS t-shirt

CHARLOTTE, NC — The front of a shirt sold by a Univ. of North Carolina-Charlotte fraternity proclaims “BACK OFF.” The back shows two stick figures preparing to engage in anal sex, surrounded by a circle and a slash. “Stop AIDS,” it says, “None for me, thanks.”

According to the Charlotte *Observer*, UNCC’s student newspaper refused to print an advertisement for the shirts. “I think it’s very discriminatory and shows an obvious bias against a group of people,” said Matt Brunson, the paper’s entertainment editor.

Kappa Sigma member Chris Murray, originator of the shirt, published a column accusing the newspaper of censorship. “I do believe these people are causing a serious problem for the rest of society,” Murray wrote. “Homosexuals have caused the AIDS epidemic, there’s no argument about it.” He explained that the shirt is intended to be humorous: “I think people like to laugh at groups causing problems.”

Kappa Sigma President, Matthew Liska, says the shirt, in addition to being funny, “brings awareness of how the disease can be contracted.”

Five hundred shirts have been sold, raising more money than any other project in the fraternity’s history.

□Lori Kenschaft

Fusidic acid sparks hope as AIDS treatment

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK — A 58-year-old man with AIDS showed marked improvement after treatment with fusidic acid, sparking hopes that the anti-biotic may be helpful in treating other people with AIDS.

The British medical journal *The Lancet* published his case history along with researchers’ discovery that “fusidic acid inhibits HIV infection in the test tube.” The researchers noted, however, that “the clinical improvement in our case may have been fortuitous, or associated with fusidic acid’s anti-bacterial activity.”

According to the New York *Native*, fusidic acid has been used for other conditions for a long time, is relatively free of side effects, can be given orally, and is relatively inexpensive. The next step is to find out whether it really is effective as part of an AIDS treatment program.

□Lori Kenschaft

Cop charged with harassment at Black gay bar

PHILADELPHIA — A complaint has been lodged with the Internal Affairs Unit of the Police Department against an officer who has allegedly been harassing patrons of the Fuel Pump, a Black gay bar.

Bartender Harry “Korrine” Harrison told *Philadelphia Gay News* that officer

John Carey entered the bar with five or six other officers at about 8:30 p.m. on November 5. He had his gun drawn and said, “If any of you move, I’ll blow your head off.” The officers remained in the bar for 45 minutes, harassing two patrons and “pushing them against the bar,” although no arrests were made.

This was not an isolated incident of harassment by the officer, according to Harrison and another bartender.

Police officials said they would not comment on the allegations because the Internal Affairs Unit was investigating the complaint. But Sixth District Captain Thomas Cooney said of Carey, “My impression of him is an aggressive officer. Some people are going to interpret his actions as not being in bounds.”

□Lori Kenschaft

Homosexuality beyond disease

AMSTERDAM — The Homosexuality Beyond Disease International Conference, to be held December 10-12, 1987, will bring together more than 100 professionals from 30 countries. Participants will include social scientists, counselors, politicians and lawyers.

The conference will focus on three areas: “Homosexuality and Mental Health,” “Theories of Homosexuality,” and “Politics and Law.” The issue of AIDS will be covered from all three perspectives. Three films will premiere at the cultural festival Dec. 9-16.

For information contact Klaas Soesbeek, Homostudies RUU, P.O. Box 80140, NL 3508 TC Utrecht, Netherlands. Tel.: 31-30-534779.

□Lori Kenschaft

1969 AIDS case adds to the mystery

ST. LOUIS, MO — Evidence that a teenager died of AIDS in 1969 indicates AIDS may have sporadically existed in the U.S. before the current epidemic.

According to the New York *Times*, the teenager, identified as Robert R., appeared at a clinic in 1968 with a variety of conditions, including swollen lymph nodes. For the next 15 months he suffered from exhaustion, weight loss, and severe chlamydia until he died after a bout of bronchial pneumonia. Upon autopsy, he was found to have widespread internal Kaposi’s sarcoma. Dr. Memory Elvin-Lewis, a chlamydia specialist, requested that tissue samples be frozen because she had been fascinated by his strange illness.

These tissue samples have now been shown to contain antibodies to the HIV virus and the P24 viral protein.

Robert R.’s doctors believe that he engaged in homosexual anal intercourse, although he never confirmed or denied this fact. They also report that he had never travelled outside the St. Louis area.

According to Richard Rothenberg, an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control, because the HIV virus is difficult to transmit, continued existence requires a large population of susceptible individuals. Rothenberg said this case indicates that the virus may have been introduced into the U.S. several times before it encountered a population that could support it.

□Lori Kenschaft

Pelosi calls for NIH inquiry

SAN FRANCISCO — Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has called for a congressional investigation of the National Institutes of Health AIDS Treatment Evaluation Units (ATEUs). Her action comes in response to complaints that the program, which is intended to identify and test effective therapies for AIDS, enrolls too few patients and creates long delays for people who wish to try experimental treatments.

Coming Up explains that disagreement about the program reflects different perspectives on its purpose: “Many people with AIDS and AIDS advocacy organizations put the stress on AIDS Treatment Evaluation Units, while researchers and scientists put the stress on AIDS Treatment

Evaluation Units.”

Pelosi argues that treatment should not be sacrificed to research. “I have people who need help. They need it soon and we need answers that this research and treatment could lead to.... It’s not fast enough for us.” She also criticizes the ATEUs for using AZT in over 90 percent of their studies when other treatments may be more successful.

If Pelosi’s request is granted, the Health and Human Resources Subcommittee will open hearings in Washington.

□Lori Kenschaft

People in wheelchairs to gain access to Boston Garden

BOSTON — A Superior Court Judge has prohibited the Celtics basketball team from blocking a plan by owners of the Boston Garden arena to install seating for people in wheelchairs. The Celtics had argued that the plan meant the risk of “irreparable injury” because 33 season ticket-holders could be forced to give up their prize spots to make way for the new seating. Judge Thomas Morse rejected the argument.

□Lori Kenschaft

Texas court allows disclosure of blood donor names

AUSTIN, TX — A woman whose daughter died of AIDS contracted through a blood transfusion may be allowed to obtain the names of the blood donors, ruled the Texas Supreme Court.

Belinda Jackson has sued the hospital and blood center that gave her infant daughter five blood transfusions for negligence in failing to screen the blood. In October, the Court ruled that the identity of the donors may be revealed to people associated with the lawsuit. According to the *Montrose Voice*, however, Jackson’s lawyer must still show, “why it is necessary for me to interview this person” before he will be given an individual donor’s name.

During the trial, the Tarrant County Hospital District argued that disclosing donor’s names violates their right to privacy and the confidential patient-physician relationship, while the Red Cross warned that disclosing names would cause a shortage of donors and threaten the nation’s blood supply.

□Lori Kenschaft

GLAD seeks participants

BOSTON — Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), a New England legal foundation for lesbian and gay rights, is expanding membership on its Board of Directors and on its various working committees. GLAD’s legal and educational work includes issues such as AIDS discrimination, employment rights, anti-violence work, and foster care rights.

The Board of Directors is a working board that meets monthly and has oversight and policy making responsibilities. Committees include Development, Litigation, Personnel, Education, and Outreach. People of color are especially encouraged to respond.

An information packet that further explains GLAD’s work and the commitment required of Board and Committee members is available. The deadline for receipt of Interest Forms is Dec. 23, 1987. To obtain an Interest Form and information packet, call Sterling at GLAD, (617) 426-1350 during business hours.

□Cindy Rizzo

Doctors stigmatize PWAs

OXFORD, MS — A University of Mississippi study reveals that physicians stigmatize people with AIDS in ways that may adversely affect medical care.

A questionnaire study of randomly

selected physicians in Phoenix, Memphis, and Columbus, Ohio, assessed their attitudes towards two mythical college-age athletic male patients, one with AIDS and the other with leukemia. The researchers concluded that “the strength and consistency of the stigmatization was disturbing.”

According to *Just Out*, the doctors were less willing to engage in a conversation with an AIDS patient, less likely to renew his lease if he were a tenant, less willing to continue a friendship, and less willing to allow children to visit him. They also believed the AIDS patient to be “more responsible for his illness and deserving of what happened to him.”

□Lori Kenschaft

U.S. Police asked not to spread AIDS paranoia

TORONTO — U.S. health and law enforcement officials say police should not spread “paranoia” about AIDS by the routine use of protective gloves and masks, although they should take precautions when a real risk of infection exists.

According to the *Montrose Voice*, officials advised the Washington-based International Association of Chiefs of Police that officers should wear gloves when handling blood or certain body fluids and that they should not lick envelopes containing syringes to be used as evidence in drug cases. But they emphasized that AIDS cannot be contracted by casual contact and that no U.S. officers are known to have contracted AIDS because of their jobs.

San Francisco Police Chief Frank Jordan said his officers did not wear protective gear during an October protest by 2000 gay people. “We don’t throw fear and paranoia into the picture,” he said.

□Lori Kenschaft

Parents of PWA denied visits to grandchildren

WHITE SETTLEMENT, TX — Wanda and Leslie Parrish spent 18 months caring for their son before he died of AIDS last month, and now a court is preventing them from seeing their other son’s children.

According to the *Montrose Voice*, the Parrishes had temporary custody of their grandsons, who are now four and seven, between 1983 and 1986. The children’s mother was then given custody. When she heard that the children’s uncle had AIDS she forbade visits with their grandparents.

Wanda took the matter to the Tarrant County Master’s Court, and in early November was informed that she and the rest of the family would have to undergo HIV testing before she could see her grandsons. “I’ll do what it takes,” she said, “but I’d rather not take that test.”

Attorney Robert Holt, an AIDS litigation specialist, has called the case “ridiculous” because of the strong evidence casual transmission of AIDS is not possible. Another hearing is scheduled for December 8.

□Lori Kenschaft

NEWSNOTES
COMPILED BY
STEPHANIE POGGI



Margaret Cerullo

Conference

Continued from page 1

Prothrow-Stith's statements on AIDS. AIDS activists Margaret Cerullo told *GCN* that she was "struck by how uninformed Prothrow-Stith was about the issue. She has a total lack of information about any of the studies that have been done on how to best prevent the spread of the disease. She was willing to substitute moral pronouncements about what teenagers are doing sexually for how to best educate people about the subject."

The conference also featured a series of panel presentations, including AIDS and children, AIDS and IV drug use, AIDS and heterosexuals and AIDS and homosexuals.

Moderators of the panel "Homosexuals and AIDS," Heriberto Crespo and Carlton Cornish, both of the AIDS Action Committee, also sharply criticized Prothrow-Stith's views. They said homosexuality is central to the AIDS debate in communities of color and that Black and Latino leaders can no longer ignore the issue.

Crespo and Cornish told the workshop participants that the Black and Latino communities are plagued by "double rejection syndrome." People of color, they explained, face not only the homophobia of their own cultures but the racism of the white gay male community. This leaves gay people of color "between a rock and a hard place," said Crespo.

To illustrate the problem of AIDS in minority communities, Crespo said that

once diagnosed, the life expectancy for minorities with AIDS is six to eight months compared to two years for white gay men. He added that the extent of the epidemic in communities of color is vastly under-represented in official statistics. He estimates that for every reported case there are three or four that are not diagnosed.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 40 percent of people with AIDS are Black or Latino and 80 percent of women with AIDS are Black or Latino.

Crespo said many factors, including poverty and racism, prevent many people of color from gaining access to the medical profession until their condition is serious. People of color must deal then with the medical profession's "ignorance of us," he said. People of color, he said, confront class prejudices in the medical profession as well as racial and sexual ones. The combination of the three is "deadly" to gay and lesbian people of color in need of medical care, he said.

Cornish, an AIDS Action Committee volunteer who does outreach to the Black gay community, said that the church, an important meeting place for the Black community, has a responsibility to help educate the community about AIDS.

He also said his outreach work is made more difficult by the lack of gay bars for people of color in Boston. Gay men of color must go to New York City or Newark, New Jersey to find a comfortable social scene, where educators can reach them, said Cornish. □

uality, nudism, and voyeurism" along with "homosexuality" in the wording of the bill in hopes that it would render the legislation unacceptable to most senators.

Locke said, "This bill could croak the governor's national ambitions. Let him try this in the corn fields of Iowa. He'd be laughed all the way back to Massachusetts."

The strategies suggested by lobbyists to force enactment of the bill involve in-house, by-the-rules political maneuvering. As evidenced by the 150 lesbians, gay men and supporters demonstrating at the State House, some believe that visible, direct action protests may express community outrage and produce results. The MGLPC's Isaacson disagreed.

"I wish that demonstrations would help," she said. "If so, I'd personally organize thousands and thousands of people. However, it tends to backfire. Senators don't like to feel like they're being pushed... they want to make up their own minds."

However, Will Hutchinson, who chairs the Greater Boston Gay and Lesbian Political Alliance, said on the State House steps that demonstrations are absolutely appropriate. "We've been playing nice guy for fourteen years," said Hutchinson. "When insider's games are ineffective, when there's a vacuum of progress for so long, the threat of direct action or civil disobedience is necessary. These protests are extremely healthy." □

Thanks!

GCN says "Thanks a million" to the kind women of *Sojourner* who offered the use of their typesetting equipment when ours failed. We couldn't have come out this week without you!

Unleashing queer energy in Boston

As right-wing backlash threatens safer sex education and legislative progress, a newly-impassioned activism is launched

By Elizabeth Pincus

BOSTON — A demonstration in support of the Massachusetts gay rights bill, held on the State House steps on Nov. 23, marked the first time in the bill's fourteen year struggle for enactment that lesbians, gay men and supporters have publicly gathered to demand passage of the legislation. (See story, page 1.) The 150 picketers also called for increased funding for explicit safer sex education and the repeal of the state's foster care policy which prohibits lesbians and gay men from becoming foster parents.

As *GCN* goes to press, Boston supporters of gay/lesbian rights and AIDS political action planned to return to the State House steps on Nov. 24 for further grassroots protest. Planned actions include a candlelight vigil for the "uninformed dead" to demonstrate that withholding safer sex information is actively genocidal, and a mass dumping of teabags to decry "taxation without representation." Last week's spirited protest of a homophobic editorial in the Catholic Archdiocese's weekly *Pilot*, and consistently high attendance at post-March on Washington planning meetings, lead Boston activists to claim a renaissance of interest in staging loud and visible actions of protest.

"It all began in Washington, right?" said Boston March organizer Judy Andler at a meeting to plan further agitation. "We owned the streets there, but now we're back in Boston and we need to keep organizing!"

Gregory Gazaway, another March on Washington organizer added, "After D.C., we're pissed . . . we're bullshit! Let's be rude, discourteous, angry and outraged!"

The ad-hoc lesbian and gay activist group remains as-yet-unnamed, though it is holding meetings and demonstrations more frequently. Some participants at the State House expressed a sense of contagious enthusiasm and empowerment from focusing on actions. A meeting on Nov. 21 drew over 200 people to City Hall who attempted a broad discussion of the group's strategies. Among many issues of concern on the agenda were women and AIDS, proposed AIDS quarantine measures, prostitutes' rights and group decision process. Said long-time feminist, lesbian and AIDS activist Margaret Cerullo, "This is a new phenomenon, that so many people are willing to be involved. It's wonderful, and it's only the beginning. It's a new challenge, to figure out the best ways to mobilize and keep political discussions going."

One recent effort to encourage dialogue was a forum sponsored by *Radical America*, a bi-monthly leftist magazine which grew out of the work of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) in the 1960s. The forum, titled "Sexuality, Politics and Communities in the Age of AIDS," attracted about 100 people, many of whom are also connected with the new ad hoc lesbian and gay political group. The Nov. 15 forum at Roxbury Community College offered a wide range of workshops, most of which sought to articulate the connections between issues for groups most affected by AIDS: gay men, people of color, women (especially poor women), prisoners and IV drug users. Speakers included Cindy Patton, author of *Sex and Germs*, Joe Interrante, a long-time AIDS activist and gay historian, and poet Ron Schreiber.

Several *Radical America* collective members expressed satisfaction at the forum turnout and its contribution towards addressing the politics of AIDS. "But," said collective member Donna Penn, "many of the people here are already AIDS workers. We had wanted to attract a more broadly-based group of radicals — people from the Black community and from the left — to encourage more work with the gay community around AIDS."

Forum moderator Cerullo, a *Radical America* collective member, addressed this topic in her opening remarks. According to Cerullo, progressive/leftist groups have largely failed to deal with AIDS. Meanwhile, she said, lesbians and gay men have been extremely radical, but lack an organization in Boston to address AIDS issues in a political context. Like many of her colleagues, she pointed out the March

on Washington has helped lend new openness and militance to the development of gay politics.

"Therefore," said Cerullo, "this is an important conjuncture in time to really seek a political form around AIDS work. We [*Radical America*] wanted to see what we could do to help transform the political landscape in Boston."

A recurring topic at the *Radical America* forum was whether a group doing AIDS action work should be lesbian/gay identified, or solely AIDS identified to attract broader community participation. Visiting members from New York's ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) explained their decision to opt for a more specifically AIDS-focused group, while acknowledging that in fact and in public perception, they have a predominately gay and lesbian membership.

"Straights have been co-opting, appropriating and watering down the work that gays and lesbians have done," said ACT UP's David Robinson. "It's tricky, because we want a broad, inclusive designation, but we want to give gay people credit for doing great work."

ACT UP enlivened the forum with rowdy humor and serious passion, as the four representatives explained the difficult progress made by the group in their first years of AIDS direct action work in New York. Boston activists appeared enthused by ACT UP's vibrancy, and expressed interest in borrowing from parts of their model for action.

ACT UP's Maria Maggenti advised, "I urge you not to talk too much. Get people together, find the problem, protest, move. Not that you shouldn't be organized, you've got to be smart, but get the immediate work done."

In their presentation, ACT UP continuously brought the focus back to anger, punk and coalition building. Member Steev Bohrer said, "As a gay man, I'm talking about gay rage *and* AIDS rage. I can't distinguish between them, and in fact, I don't want to be bothered. AIDS has brought out a real justifiable, political anger in so many people, often in such a short time."

The *Radical America* forum included much discussion of the impact of AIDS on people of color. Author Evelynn Hammonds explained that Black people have been disregarded by the medical profession and other institutions due in part to racist assumptions about deviance and disease. "Epidemic disease is always about social order and politics," she said. "Race is a reality in our culture and the situation of AIDS in the Black community is very stark."

Said Black lesbian activist Angela Bowen, "People see AIDS as a white disease. But people of color are gay and lesbian — the communities overlap. Some Black churches and other groups are now dealing well with AIDS, but we need to show our faces often so that other people of color will feel more connected."

Boston activists said they hope to continue discussions like those raised during the *Radical America* forum, though pressures to act quickly may force compromises. They agree that rallying the existing energy in the community is of timely importance. The membership has tentatively decided to identify as a lesbian/gay group directed towards AIDS action, while maintaining the flexibility to incorporate other issues as well.

Some members continue to work on committees for monitoring the media and bringing the AIDS quilt to Boston. Others are focusing on further direct action, or "zaps." Suggested zaps include continued picketing at the State House, demonstrations at the Central Insurance Clearing House over issues of AIDS testing and confidentiality, and protests over reproductive rights concerns and AIDS treatment at the Harvard Community Health Plan center.

"We want to do something more than attend meetings and lick envelopes," said a person with AIDS who went to the *Radical America* forum and the State House demonstration. "There's so much untapped energy

Continued on page 6

GCN welcomes all letters to the editor except personal attacks. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are printed on a space-available basis. The opinions expressed here are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership. Letters must be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED AND NO LONGER THAN THREE PAGES. Send to: Community Voices, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

Medallions a questionable investment

Dear *GCN*:

Much as the right to advertise is a right of free speech, and much as *GCN* needs the ad revenue, I'm sorry that you distributed an insert for a silver medallion producer.

Readers are invited to "invest in limited edition" medallion sets. The investment value of this product is a gamble, at best. There is no stated limit to the edition; the sale price is five times the worth of the silver. In my opinion as a professor of art history (University of California, Davis) and museum consultant, the medallions as illustrated have no artistic quality that would interest museums.

The medallion producer does promise to give slightly more than one quarter of the sale price to non-profit AIDS projects. But think how much more could be accomplished with the whole \$98.50 going to AIDS services!

People saddened and frustrated by AIDS may be especially vulnerable to sales pitches on how to respond to the situation. I hope your readers will check with antique and coin dealers about this "investment," and consider direct donation to AIDS organizations in tribute to their loved ones, before they respond to this ad.

Sincerely yours,
Jeffrey Ruda
Davis, CA

"AIDS and genes" article is wild speculation

Dear *GCN*:

A recent article in *GCN* attempted to link the AIDS epidemic with biological and chemical warfare as well as hepatitis B vaccination programs (AIDS and Genes, Part I, Oct. 4-10). The article, written by Mr. Charles Shively, contains numerous factual and logical errors, and I was saddened that *GCN* would print such material.

Mr. Shively's first contention is that the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) was spread, at least in part, by hepatitis B vaccinations in San Francisco and New York in the late seventies. Yet, when a vaccine is prepared from the blood plasma of infected individuals, the solution is boiled with formaldehyde to destroy any live virus present. As has been proven repeatedly, HIV is a much weaker virus than hepatitis B virus. Any procedure that would kill hepatitis B would also kill of HIV. Mr. Shively concludes that "the medico/hospital/government complex first spread AIDS." He has by no means proved his case.

The article also states that with developments in understanding the role of T-cells (a group of white blood cells) in the immune response, "targeted genocide was possible," This is a gross exaggeration of what is possible in molecular biology in 1987. It is even more ridiculous since such a virus would have to have been produced in the mid-1970's, since antibodies to HIV have been found in blood samples from as early as 1975.

Mr. Shively gives far more credit to the military than they deserve for being able to make HIV, a virus which attaches itself to a protein on T cells called T4. He contends that military researchers may have made the virus by splicing other viruses together, specifically the sheep maedi-visna virus and the human T-cell lymphotropic virus I (HTLV-I which causes a kind of leukemia). this is patently absurd, since HTLV-I was only discovered in 1980 and HIV appeared in the 1970s, and probably earlier. In addition, HIV is significantly different from HTLV-I, and not the result of even a large number of gene splices with any other virus. And finally, even the military would not choose a "lentivirus" ("lenti" [means] slow, not lens-shaped as stated in the article) like the sheep virus to make HIV. The point is that

lentiviruses are *slow* to cause disease. Warfare is an inherently fast undertaking.

Mr. Shively also believes that HIV may not be the cause of AIDS, terming such a belief "medical dogma." But the medical facts are these: T4 cells are selectively killed off in AIDS patients; there is a virus that can be seen under the electron microscope poking holes in T4 cells from an AIDS patient; the virus can kill T4 cells in culture dishes with great ease; and the virus can be isolated from nearly all patients with AIDS. The article confuses results that have indicated that the virus can not always be obtained from the blood of AIDS patients, with the conclusion that the virus is not the cause of AIDS. There are two reasons for this confusion: first, culturing human cells is extremely difficult, and even if the virus is present, it may not be possible to get a culture with virus growing; second, the amount of virus free in the blood (not sitting inside cells) may vary considerably over time. If virus is looked for at certain times, there may not be enough present to be measurable. Hence, virus may have been present, but simply not detectable at such low levels.

It is crucial that the gay community not join in the epidemic of scapegoating for this disease, simply because we are one of the prime groups used as the target in such campaigning. And it is more important that we argue from the facts and not resort to wild speculation. We waste our time with such efforts and divert attention from the real causes of the spread of this disease: ignorance and a virus called HIV.

Yours sincerely,
Roland Dunbrack, Jr.
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Harvard University
Cambridge, MA

A notarized sodomy confession

Dear *GCN*:

Now that the National March on Washington is behind us, the gay community must seek actions for continuing our struggle for justice under the law. I would like to describe a type of civil disobedience action that can be used by individuals to chip away at sodomy laws, without great personal risk. I had undertaken such an action in D.C, in addition to the civil disobedience at the Supreme Court.

Since I was not able to find a partner willing to be actually arrested for sodomy, I found a compromise approach with a volunteer who also wanted to make a personal statement, but did not want to be arrested or face publicity.

What I did was to call a non-emergency number for the police, give them my name and hotel address, and announce that I would be committing an act of sodomy as soon as I hung up the phone. I invited them to attempt arresting me if they wished, and hung up.

I had already put on a condom before calling. My partner touched his mouth to the condom for a few seconds, then left the hotel quickly, before the police could arrive. Under D.C. law, any oral-genital contact, including cunnilingus, constitutes technical sodomy, whether a sex act is actually completed or not.

As it turned out, the police never did show up. If they had come, I would have confessed my "crime," but refused to divulge the name of my partner.

Afterwards, I mailed a notarized confession of the sodomy act to the D.C. Police. Considering that the police have failed to make any arrest in my case, arrest should be unlikely for other gays who carry out similar actions, particularly if the sodomy act is not actually witnessed.

I think this type of action, if done by enough gay people, would begin to have an effect. Each call helps to harass the straight establishment, and illustrate the absurdity of what it would mean to have police trying to barge into bedrooms. If the police fail to show, this helps to expose their hypocrisy, and the futility of the law.

I would also suggest for gays to report any such actions to local newspapers. A flood of reports may eventually prompt them to report on the phenomenon.

Whether large numbers of gays join in this type of action or not, I recommend doing this if for no other reason, for the sake of bolstering your own pride and sense of freedom. It is difficult to feel as defeated and helpless once that you have openly defied straight oppression.

Thomas R. Keske
Randolph, MA

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

The **GCN Collective** in alphabetical order by primary title/function (*indicates member of paid staff collective):

ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE
Susan Bernstein, Stephanie Poggi, Art Cohen, Gordon Gottlieb
ART/PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT
Art Director: Dan Mishkind*
Illustrators/Layout: Jim Fauntleroy, Regina Gillis, Jeremy Grainger, Tom Huth, Ellen Meyers, Elizabeth Reiner,Terri Rutter, Niall Sweeney, Connie Vetter, Susan Yousem
Proofreaders: Linda Burnett, Jan Fielding, Gordon Gottlieb, Michael Grossman, Todd Hollister, Rob Krikorian, Read Weaver, Jim Williams
Redesign format: Dan Mishkind, Niall Sweeney
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Gerardo Maria Cabrera, Steve Dyer, Jim Fauntleroy, Regina Gillis, Don Hill, Marea Murray, Anne Phibbs, Troy Richardson
CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT
Coordinator: Chris Bull*
Data Entry: Holly Ellison, Paul Schierenbeck, Whitt Pond
Staff: Paul Amato, Janna Bremer, Barnaby Fisher, David Hunt, Larry Hitt, Gil, Ron Jackson, John Jones, Stephen Magnus, Carl Mann, William Newton, Mark O'Malley, Warren Patterson, Rich Rupert, Mary Russel, Bill Sweet, David Waite
CLASSIFIEDS
Coordinator: Catherine Lohr*
COMPUTER COMMITTEE
Mark Curby, Steve Dyer, Art Cohen, Troy Richardson, Jim Fauntleroy
COORDINATING EDITOR
Laurie Sherman*
DISPLAY ADVERTISING
Coordinator: Dan Page*
DISTRIBUTION
Boston area: Barb Cischke
Bulk Distribution: Ray Hopkins
New York Distribution: Ubiquity Distribution, 1050 East 4th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11230, (718) 789-3137.
FEATURES DEPARTMENT
Editor: Stephanie Poggi*
Assistant: Michael Bronski
Calendar Coordinator: Barnaby Fisher
Staff: Geraldo Maria Cabrera, Siong-huat Chua, Ed Cohen, Susie Day, Carrie Dearborn, Larry Goldsmith, Jewell Gomez, Diane Hamer, Loie Hayes, Don Hill, Monica Hileman, Ellen Herman, Miranda Kolbe, Bill Kreidler, John Kyper, Robin Lippincott, Shelley Mains, E. G. Martin, Mara Math, Mark McHarry, Duncan Mitchel, Pam Mitchell, Marea Murray, Cindy Patton, William A. Percy, Veneita Porter, Patricia A. Roth,

SUSTAIN GCN And yourself and your community.

Keeping GCN going keeps you going. GCN's news stories, features and letters inform you, entertain you, and activate you.

Join over 75 Sustainers nationwide who have pledged to support a special GCN project, and to play a vital role in keeping GCN alive. And kicking.

Here's how it works. Pledge \$120 or more/year (current pledges range from \$120-2500/year. (That's as little as \$10/month!) You can send your pledge all at once, or in installments throughout the year, preceded by GCN's friendly reminders. Your 1987 pledge is earmarked to cover some of the cost of our recent move (think of it as a rent party that lasts all year). In addition, we hope to raise enough Sustainer money to purchase a stat camera, a piece of equipment which will greatly reduce our weekly production costs.

In return, we'll send you:
• a year's subscription to GCN
• two complimentary 12-week subscriptions for friends, lovers, family, co-workers, your boss...

Charley Shively, Donald Stone, Maida Tilchen, Tim Walton
INDEXER
Charles Ash
NEWS DEPARTMENT
Editor: Jennie McKnight*
Local Reporter: Kim Westheimer*
Staff Writer: Chris Bull*
Staff: Michael Botkin, Scott Brookie, Betsy Brown, Joanne Brown, Art Cohen, Nancy DeLuca, Joan Doyle, Jim Fauntleroy, Chris Guilfoy, Craig Harris, Marty Heggestad, John Hubert, Stephen Hunt, Janice Irvine, Jud Kempson, John Kyper, Kendall Lovett, Tatiana Schreiber, Glenn Sitzmann, Marc Stein, Denise Sudell, Nancy Wechsler, Diana Woodall, John Zeh
OFFICE MANAGER/PRISONER PROJECT
Mike Riegle*
Prisoner Project Staff: Debra Davenport, Freddie Greenfield, Larry Hitt, Tiyo Attallah Salah-El
PHOTOGRAPHERS
Susan Bernstein, Darlene, Susan Fleischmann, Marilyn Humphries, Patsy Lynch, Debbie Rich, RINK, Ellen Shub, Lee Snider, Brian Quinby
PROMOTIONS DEPARTMENT
Interim Coordinators: Catherine Lohr, Dan Page, Susan Yousem
Microfilm Promoter: Bissy Craig
TYPOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT
GCN Typesetter/Features writer: Christopher Wittke*
Outside Typesetting Coordinator: Wanda Cummings
Staff: Michael Grossman, Amy Groves, Amy Lustig, Chris Madsen, Nancy Wechsler

©1987, Bromfield Street Educational Foundation, Inc., all rights reserved, reprint by permission only.

Gay Community News is published weekly (except the last week of April, August and December), by the Bromfield Street Educational Foundation, Inc., a non-profit corporation. Our office is located at 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116. (617) 426-4469, TTY/TDD 426-0332.

Second-class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Annual subscription rate is \$33. Institutional rate: \$40. ISSN: [0147-0728]. Member New England Press Association, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, COSMEP member.

GCN is included in the Alternative Press Index, published quarterly by the Alternative Press Center, Inc., Box 33109, Baltimore, MD 21218.

Volumes 1-14 of **GCN** are available on microfilm for \$33/volume. Write **GCN**/Microfilm for more information.

Postmaster: Send address changes to: **Gay Community News**, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

**CELEBRATE
OUR 15th AND
SAVE 17 BUCKS
OFF THE
NEWSSTAND
PRICE**

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Subscription ☐ Renewal ☐ 1 year \$33 \$ _____
25 weeks \$20 \$ _____
25 weeks/low income \$12 \$ _____

I would like to contribute towards a free subscription for a lesbian or gay prisoner \$ _____
Enclosed is my check or money order for \$ _____

These rates are for subscriptions within the USA. Institutional rate: \$40 per year. Add 50% for foreign, including Canada. Amounts received in excess will be considered donations, which are greatly appreciated.

Mail to: GCN Subscriptions, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116

GCN is published by a non-profit, educational foundation



SHARE *the Spirit!*

BOSTON GAY MEN'S CHORUS IN CONCERT



Robert Barney, Music Director

Featuring the East Coast Premiere of
Conrad Susa's "The Cricket Sings"

Sunday, Dec. 13, 1987, 3 PM

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 1987, 8 PM

Jordan Hall at
New England Conservatory
(Corner of Huntington Ave. and Gainsborough St.,
across from Symphony Hall)

Sunday Reception (\$5 Donation) Immediately Following
at Commonwealth Grille, 111 Dartmouth St.

Tickets \$12 & \$8

Available at: Jordan Hall Box Office, Ticketron,
Out of Town (Harvard Square), Bostix, Glad Day Bookshop,
and Fritz (in the South End)

Charge Tickets by calling Teletron at 720-3434

Jordan Hall Box Office: 536-2412

Sign Language Interpreted

Funded in part by a grant from the
Boston Arts Lottery Council



Youth

Continued from page 1

has to do with social and economic conditions," responded Rosenfeld. She reemphasized the need for more education targeted towards Black and Latino communities.

While Rosenfeld's presentation covered all of fourth period and part of fifth, the students were told they would have to report back to the remaining half of their fifth period class. "Keep going into the rest of fifth period," one girl whispered to a friend, "I'd rather learn how not to die than go fifth period."

Like Wow! She talked about kissing, sex and oral sex

In an interview a few weeks after the presentation, Rosenfeld spoke of some of the difficulties of being sexually explicit at the Catholic school. "The science and biology teachers organized me to come and talk to grades 9 through 12, and they didn't tell the priest of the school. About five to ten minutes before I went on, he came up to me and said 'You aren't going to talk about con-

*"[I let them know]
I think they [young
people] care about
themselves, that they
want to stay healthy,
that they like their
bodies — or that
they're at least trying
to like their bodies."*

doms are you?" and I said 'Yes, I am going to talk about condoms. Not as a birth control device but as a medical, disease-prevention device, and I'll talk about them in a medical context.' We got into quite a heated little debate for just a couple of minutes, in which he [said that] condoms are not an option, that abstinence is the only right option. In other words, he thought most of the young women in that room didn't know about sex, didn't know about condoms, didn't know about oral sex, and that by talking about them I was promoting sexual behavior among them.

"I said that statistically we know that 65 percent of adolescents in Massachusetts are sexually active before leaving high school. Ethically, morally, I told him, I could not do my job without talking about condoms. Usually I mention gay and lesbian youth, but this time I didn't talk about gay and lesbian youth. I talked in terms of contact, man to man, woman to woman, and man to woman sexual contact."

During the presentation, Rosenfeld also noted that 85 percent of the cases of sexually transmitted diseases are found in people aged 15-24.

"Adults just don't talk with kids about sex," lamented Rosenfeld. "It's a tragedy, especially with AIDS around." She has been told that kids talk about her presentation for weeks "in a real positive way. 'Like wow! I can't believe this woman came in and she talked about kissing and sex and oral sex and she was so direct.'"

Tips for the terminally adult

Rosenfeld said she is often asked why kids are so open with her. "They can tell that I respect them...I think it's that simple...not talking down to them — not assuming that they're not sexually active — not assuming that they are sexually active, just assuming that they want and need information.

"I just wrote up this thing on talking to teens about AIDS. 'Six tips,' I call it. Adults need to hear it over and over again. You know — deal with your own personal [AIDS] fears and feelings. Talk to young people with respect. Provide all the facts. Address the issue of self-esteem. I think that's so important.

"I usually acknowledge when I talk to youth that it's hard being a teenager. It's not an easy time. And when I talk to adults I ask them, 'How many of you remember what it was like to be a teenager. Would you want to go back to that time? Think about an adult who made a difference to you when you were a teenager. What was it about that person... How can you take on some of those qualities?'"

Rosenfeld said she is acutely aware of the stress kids face — "especially when you're talking about kids of color or gay and lesbian youth who are dealing with issues of coming out, let alone coming out in the age of AIDS. Or kids who are living in the inner city and [are] poor and they don't have enough food. To add one more thing like AIDS — which means that basically if you have unprotected sex you're at risk of getting this disease that could kill you — it's incredibly scary. So I try to develop a relationship and rapport with them, and sort of ease into it.

"One thing that I also think is extremely important is to convey confidence in them. Again that goes along with self-esteem and behavior change. I let them know I think they care about themselves, that they want to stay healthy, that they like their bodies — or that they're at least trying to like their bodies. And I tell them I know this is hard but I know you can do it. I know you can tell your friends about it, rather than, 'this is a terrible disease. It [has] killed 45,000 people. Anybody is at risk — especially youth. And if you don't listen to this you might die.'

"I don't believe in the use of scare tactics. I don't think it works. I think it just paralyzes people and numbs them out. I think you need to give them enough information that they're motivated to ask more questions or change their behavior. But not so much scary stuff that they're going to say, 'Forget it, I'm doomed anyway. I'm not going to do anything.'"

Addressing homophobia and racism

Rosenfeld stresses that combatting homophobia and making things easier for lesbian and gay youth are not her top priorities when she addresses students. Her goal is to stop the spread of AIDS. But if she chips away at homophobia at all, she is pleased.

"I had a question once I had a hard time answering. A boy asked 'Why do people discriminate against gay people?' It took me a long time to get my thoughts together. In a way it was just great that he felt comfortable asking that but I really had to think about it you know — I wanted to come out there on the spot, but I didn't.

"I suspected that he was gay. I didn't allude to that but I think I certainly answered his question with complete respect and sincerity....I think if I had come out, the focus would have been more on that, more on me than on him and his question. But I talked about ignorance and fear and

*"About five to
ten minutes before I
went on, [the priest]
came up to me and
said, 'You aren't
going to talk about
condoms are you?'"*

people's own fears about being gay and people being scapegoated. But how do you answer a question like that and not feel like you're giving a pat answer?"

Similarly, Rosenfeld spoke of the difficulties answering the frequently asked questions about why rates of AIDS are disproportionately high in communities of color. "It's not like you can give a statistic or a number. You have to talk about discrimination; you have to talk about poor levels of health care, underlying disease, maybe poor nutrition, poverty, IV drug use — which isn't just a Black or a Latino problem, but there is IV drug use in these communities — and [that] a lot of AIDS education has not been targeted for communities of color."

This is just a beginning

Rosenfeld says she gets an average of ten requests a week for her presentations. She has to turn down at least 75 percent of those requests because of time constraints. Her packed schedule also prevents her from doing any follow-up with groups. But she does try to ensure that the school will take over where she left off.

"Usually I like to either do a [training] for the teachers first and make sure they've got some base-line information or make sure they get trained [from someone else]. If that doesn't happen, I make sure they agree first to the concept that this isn't all the kids

Continued on page 11

Killing us softly

Kilbourne's new film takes another look at advertising's image of women

Still Killing Us Softly. By Jean Kilbourne. At the Brattle Theater in Cambridge. Dec. 6. 1 pm. 30 min. A benefit for Boston NOW. A discussion led by Kilbourne will follow the film.

By **Stephanie Poggi**

Still *Killing Us Softly*, a new film by Jean Kilbourne, offers a basic analysis of advertising's exploitation of women. An updated version of her earlier movie, *Killing Us Softly*, the short piece covers a slide presentation and talk by Kilbourne at Harvard University.

While many feminists will find few revelations in the discussion of how advertising enforces and reflects societal prescriptions, Kilbourne is straight-forward and usually on target. Certainly college audiences have found the presentation illuminating if not earth-shattering.

This premiere showing is a benefit for Boston NOW. □



Kramer vs. Kramer

Triangle Theater performs Normal Heart surgery; the play survives

The Normal Heart by Larry Kramer. Directed by Steven O'Donnell. Set design by Don Meuss. Lighting design by Larry Buckley. With Matthew Harvey, Gregory Brown, Robert F. McCafferty, David Panella and C. Dianne Manning. At the Triangle Theater, 58 Berkeley St. Through Dec. 12.

By **Bill Kreidler**

It isn't easy to write about *The Normal Heart*. You have to try to set aside whatever feelings you have about author Larry Kramer, a high profile and highly abrasive AIDS activist. This is no easy trick since the main character in *The Normal Heart* is clearly based on Kramer. In fact, all the characters are unflattering, thinly-disguised portraits of actual people. *The Normal Heart* is a kind of vindictive docudrama and should, by rights, be called *The Tattle-tale Heart*.

The Normal Heart is about two of the major issues of the 1980s — AIDS and anger. It is the story of a New York City writer named Ned Weeks (played by Robert F. McCafferty) and his attempts to warn the gay male community of a new and devastating sexually transmitted disease. First charged with this mission by a woman physician (C. Dianne Manning), Weeks sets about his task with the compulsive zeal of a saint, and the tact and sensitivity of an enraged cow.

Weeks sees himself first as the lone voice of sanity, like the scientist in a fifties horror film is desperately trying to warn the complacent town-folk about the deadly creeping slime mold. Then eventually — and inevitably — Weeks sees himself as a martyr; his lover contracts AIDS, the health organization he helps to found ousts him, and no one in the gay community will listen to his rantings.

I had read and heard many criticisms of *The Normal Heart* before I saw it. They were all true. It is self-aggrandizing, homophobic, and anti-sex. It blames the victims of AIDS as it wallows in self-pity. It is a predictable and heavy-handed melodrama. What I hadn't expected, given all this, was that *The Normal Heart* is a play that works.

Kramer unflinchingly presents Ned Weeks as an emotionally strait-jacketed man, awash with self-pity and anger, who is suddenly confronted with genuine tragedy. Weeks reacts with a fearsome energy fueled by rage, guilt, and self-loathing. It is a classic portrait of anger running amok, spilling and slopping over both AIDS victims and victimizers. The real tragedy of *The Normal Heart* is not just AIDS. It is also Ned Weeks and his inability to recognize how and why he has alienated everyone when he truly believes his intentions are honorable.

The Triangle Theater Company's current

fine production of *The Normal Heart* brings out the play's best features and does what it can with its weak points. Director Steven O'Donnell and his talented cast deftly play the melodrama for every tear they can jerk, and skillfully temper Kramer's didactic stretches. Robert McCafferty, who has the thankless job of playing one of the most unlikeable protagonists of the modern theater, brings the right blend of angst and outrage to the character of Ned Weeks. Dianne Manning, who plays the intensely dedicated but cold-hearted Dr. Brookner, softens the hard edges of her character without diluting her strength. Assistant director Steve Parton is outstanding as the level-headed Tommy Boatwright, leavening several of the play's more heavy-handed moments. They are ably supported by the rest of the cast, particularly Craig Carter as Week's lover and Jim Vetter as the closeted, conservative, and conflicted Bruce Niles. In the wrong hands, *The Normal Heart* has potential for being a tawdry and offensive melodrama. Fortunately for us, it is in the competent hands of the Triangle Theater Company. □

Activism

Continued from page 3

out there. Please get this new group together and draw us [PWAs] in. We're hurting, we want to act."

Note: The next meeting of the Boston ad hoc group of gay and lesbian activists meets Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 pm, room 801, City Hall. For more information and demonstration updates call (617) 661-7737.

ACT UP meets every Monday evening at 7:30 pm at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 W. 13th Street, New York. For more information call (212) 533-8888. □



BULFINCH

At last...

Luxury Rental Homes
Have come to Roxbury

Beautiful, one and two bedroom homes. Each aptment includes wall to wall carpet, dishwasher, disposal, frost-free refrigerator with ice maker, individual apartment security, central heat and air, high ceilings, some with balconies.

Exercise room, sauna, laundry, on site parking included
\$825-\$950

Call Independant Managers Incorporated
442-6828



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Financed by Mass. Housing Finance Agency
Units available on an open occupancy basis

Spending is a Sickness

when you try to buy friendship...when you shop for a temporary lift...when your debts pile up...and you still haven't found what you really need.

It's time to call for help.

South End Counseling

596 Tremont Street, Boston
437-9643



GREATER BOSTON LESBIAN AND GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE

6th Annual Community Recognition Dinner

Saturday, Dec. 12
China Pearl Restaurant
9 Taylor St., Boston

Cocktail and Press
Reception 6-7pm
Dinner 7pm

\$25 person/reservations required
Call: Jay Deacon 742-2100 (days)
265-0348 (eve)

THE NORMAL HEART

Presented by Triangle Theater Company
A play by Larry Kramer, Directed by Steven O'Donnell
November 19,20,21,27,28 and December 3,4,5,10,11,12
Paramount Penthouse Theater, 58 Berkeley Street, Boston
Curtain 8:00 p.m. For tickets and information call 426-3550



Design Geneva Design Group

What
do
they
want?

LOS ANGELES

WORKERS
WORLD PARTY
GAY
NOW

I'm gonna send GCN to everybody on my list!

And it's so cheap...

\$25

for the first full-year subscription for yourself or a friend — that's 25% off the regular rate and 50% off the cover price...

\$20

for each additional full year gift or...

\$10

for each additional half year gift...

That's 40% off the regular rate and a whopping 60% off the cover price...

My name is _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I would like to contribute towards a free subscription for a gay or lesbian prisoner. \$_____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ gift subscriptions.

Special holiday rates end January 31, 1988.

Mail to: GCN Subscriptions

62 Berkeley Street

Boston, MA 02116

These rates are for U.S.A.

Add 50% for foreign, including Canada.

GCN is produced by the non-profit, tax-exempt

Bromfield Street Educational Foundation.

All contributions to GCN are tax-deductible.

Sign me up for a subscription or send a gift sub to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Special low rate:

☐ 1 year \$25 ☐ New sub

(reg. \$33) ☐ Renewal

Gift card to read: _____

Send a gift subscription to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Special low rates:

☐ 1 year \$20 ☐ 6 months \$10

(reg. \$33) (reg. \$20)

Gift card to read: _____

Send a gift subscription to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Special low rates:

☐ 1 year \$20 ☐ 6 months \$10

(reg. \$33) (reg. \$20)

Gift card to read: _____

Send a gift subscription to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Special low rates:

☐ 1 year \$20 ☐ 6 months \$10

(reg. \$33) (reg. \$20)

Gift card to read: _____

Send a gift subscription to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Special low rates:

☐ 1 year \$20 ☐ 6 months \$10

(reg. \$33) (reg. \$20)

Gift card to read: _____

Send a gift subscription to:

Name _____

Address _____

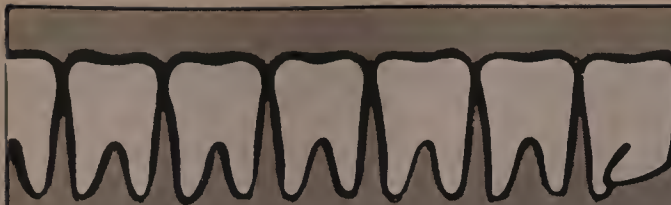
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Special low rates:

☐ 1 year \$20 ☐ 6 months \$10

(reg. \$33) (reg. \$20)

Gift card to read: _____



healthy teeth...

they're

a team effort

Richard R. Bankhead, DDS
Paul O. Groipen, DDS
Kirk S. Bankhead, DDS
 1259 Hyde Park Ave.
 Hyde Park, MA 02136
 (617) 364-5500

Mon.-Sat. & evenings

LOOKING AT USED CARS?
 Before buying one, bring it to us for a complete evaluation. \$35 for 4 or 6 cylinder cars — \$5 extra for V-8, van or A/C (with this ad). If you would like a woman mechanic to work on your car, please say so when you make your appointment.

J. & S. AUTOMOTIVE
 277 Northampton Street
 267-0300

GENERAL DENTISTRY

JOHN C. BARNA, DMD
AMY D. WETTER, R.D.H

790 BOYLSTON STREET
 10 FAIRFIELD PLAZA
 BOSTON, MA 02199
 (617)353-1500

The Law Offices of David R. Lund & Associates, P.C.

David R. Lund, Janice Platner,
 Barbara Macy, Michael F. Harrington

Criminal Defense • Estate Planning •
 Real Estate Transactions • Domestic
 Relations • Discrimination • Probate
 of Estates • Defense of Drunk
 Drivers • Business Representation •
 Relationship agreements • Civil
 Litigation • General Practice of Law •
 Condominium Conversion

529 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02115
617-266-0760

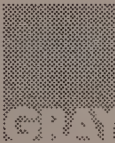
Attorney Alec Gray

Announces his new law office offering the following service areas:

Discrimination
Civil Rights
Tax
Estate Planning and Wills
AIDS Law
Personal Relationship
Contracts
Real Estate
Criminal
Personal Injury

Alec Gray, Attorney at Law
 Former Assistant Attorney General

205 Portland Street
 Boston, MA 02114
 (617) 367-2840

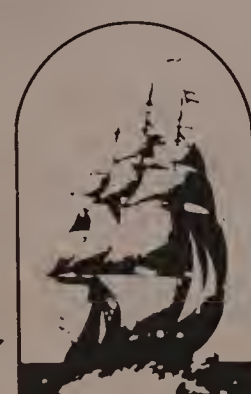


Confused, Anxious, Depressed?
The key to Clarity, Peace and Vitality is:

EXPERIENCE
 We have 20 years of it.
 Call us:

739-7832
 321 Columbus Ave.
 5th Floor, Boston

MassBay
COUNSELING ASSOCIATES



Insurance AUTO Insurance

CALL AND COMPARE BEFORE YOU BUY

- ★ No Service Fees — Ever! ★
- ★ Rates Quoted Over the Phone ★
- ★ Same Day Registration Service ★
- ★ Convenient Monthly Payment Plans ★
- ★ Cancelled Policies Replaced ★

BROOKLINE 241 Washington St. 731-1015	ROSLINDALE 4521 Washington St. 323-0800	ALLSTON 168a Brighton Ave. 782-0400
---	---	---

Our offices are staffed with friendly, knowledgeable people to answer all your questions.

CALL THE INSURANCE PROFESSIONALS FIRST

KUNEVICH & LAU
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

Laurie A. Livingston, Ed.D.
Licensed Psychologist

Specializing in:
agoraphobia • panic disorder • simple fears and phobias • depression • stress disorders • social anxiety •

Telephone:
(617) 262-5223

Agoraphobia Treatment and Research Center of New England
 264 Beacon Street
 Boston, MA 02116

FOREX TRAVEL

76 Arlington St. Phone 482-2900



A Cruise To Remember '88

February 20-27 "New" Canada Star
 New Orleans • Key West • Cozumel

March 18-25 SS Dolphin
 Miami • Ocho Rios • Nassau • RSVP Cove

Priced from \$795

RSVP

Lowest Prices
All Airlines

VIDA K. BERKOWITZ
ATTORNEY AT LAW
In Practice Since 1975

General Practice
 *Family Law
 *Real Estate Transfers
 *Consumer/Small Business

Employment
 *Discrimination
 *Unemployment
 *Worker's Comp

52 Western Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02130
(617) 876-7099

Youth

Continued from page 5

need. That this is just a beginning.... I give them written materials."

Rosenfeld also gives the teachers a list of hotline numbers to give to the students. These numbers include the AIDS Action Committee hotline, the Tecu-line and Rosenfeld's own phone number. While no student has ever called her, Rosenfeld said she thinks "it's comforting for them to know they can call me if they have a specific question."

Educating teachers

Currently Rosenfeld is expanding her work to include seminars for teachers. She explained how the experience is very different from working with students.

"Teachers seem much more concerned about getting infected in the workplace or getting infected from ways that they would [not] get infected. Kids are much more concerned about sexual behaviors. Now this may be just a factor of kids being more open and more willing to ask about detailed sexual practices than adults. Teachers focus on these picky things: 'I shared a Tic Tac with somebody in the office the other day and ever since then I've been paranoid that I'm infected.' That was from a teacher.

"And kids — [I] talk about some of the studies — the sibling study in New York City where kids who were infected lived in really close household quarters with their siblings and their siblings didn't get infected. They were sharing toothbrushes and sleeping in the same bed and taking baths together. Kids seem to hear that and process it and go on to the next thing.

"I was doing a training yesterday and even after a couple hours of basic AIDS information a woman came up to me and said 'You know, I've heard everything you said and I consider myself really well informed, I still have doubts about the football players who are playing on the field and share a jug of water and are drinking out of the same jug and the same cup after the game.' And I had to stay really calm, and say, 'there's no risk, it's really okay, that's okay, it's really okay...I wouldn't worry about that at all.' When I really get angry and say, 'Haven't you heard what I've said at all? Why are you so afraid?' But I understand that people are afraid. And the community at large [has] been dealing with AIDS for a lot shorter time than the gay community.

"Teachers often don't understand, 'why we can't test everyone so we know *who's* got it and who doesn't and we can just protect the people who don't,' " she added.

Thinking, eating and sleeping AIDS

Rosenfeld acknowledges that her job is tremendously stressful. "I have to deal with the fact that AIDS kills and the only prevention we have is education. But it's not really just education — it's education/behavior change. You can educate out your nose. And unless people change their behavior, you're not going to stop transmission of the virus.... I just go home and I say 'Are kids really using condoms? Are they really having fewer partners or is this all for nothing?'"

Rosenfeld said her ability to deal with the stress is helped by support she gets at the Department of Public Health — where is she is openly queer — and from her lover, who has helped through "encouragement and understanding." She said the stress of her job affects her relationship with her lover.

"A couple of months ago [my lover] sat me down and she said 'I am your priority, AIDS is not your priority.' It's horrible when AIDS becomes your life. I mean it happens. And I go home and I think AIDS and I eat AIDS and I sleep AIDS. There's more to life than AIDS."

Rosenfeld's latest pet project is a youth peer education program. She hopes to implement it through the peer education component of DPH's drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. She is hoping to set up a series of conferences for peer leaders to learn about AIDS, deal with their own feelings about the disease and tackle homophobia. Ultimately Rosenfeld would like to see students trained to make the kind of presentations she makes. □

ON A SATURDAY NIGHT, DO YOU WANT ME TO STAY IN AND MOPE... OR COME OUT AND LAUGH?

BOSTON UNIVERSITY'S LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

☆☆ LYNN LAVNER ☆☆

COMEDIENNE

—FREE—

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
8 pm
775 COMMONWEALTH AVE.
2nd FLOOR
GEORGE SHERMAN UNION
BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Rev. Bob Wheatly, M.Div.,
Minister to the Boston Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual
Community and its Families

Announces His Professional Availability as
counselor — advisor — confidant

Harvard Square, Cambridge 02138
1430 Mass. Ave. — Room 301
617-868-2320

Non-Sectarian — Values Centered

Handling the Holidays
for parents of gays and lesbians and for gays and lesbians

Groups for Support & Sharing

- plan ahead for family visits
- move past "survival" to better relationships
- new ideas, new moves

Holiday Workshops
Saturdays 11/14, 12/5, & 12/12
Mondays, PM, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14

Jean Chapin Smith, LICSW
straight parent of gay children
(617) 876-2113

Newbury Veterinary Clinic
Bruce R. Weiner, V.M.D.

272 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
near Symphony & Mass Ave T

Office Hours by Appointment
Call 266-9269

ARADIA

COUNSELING FOR WOMEN
Individual, Couple and Group Counseling

Call 247-4861 ext. 58
Sliding Scale Fee
Health Insurance Accepted

520 Commonwealth Avenue
Kenmore Square

Dr. Jonathan D. Stein
Chiropractor

Treatment of: Neck and shoulder pain, Headaches, Low back pain, Bursitis, Acute and Chronic Musculoskeletal conditions resulting from occupational stress and nervous tension.

Evening and Saturday Appts.
Available, 232-7200
375 Harvard St., Brookline, MA

DLC

DAVID L. COLLINS
C.L.U.

Insurance for all your needs

Congress St.
P.O. Box 1762
Boston, MA 02105

Orleans/Brewster
Office Park
E. Orleans, MA 02643
255-2600

Call toll-free 1-800-352-3185

(BOSTON'S BEST MUSICAL!)

"INTOXICATING!"
—Arthur Friedman, Boston Herald

"PUNCH, PIZZAZZ, SMASHING MATERIAL!"
—Joyce Kulhawik, WBZ-TV

"HILARIOUS!"
—John Engstrom, Boston Globe

"PERFECTLY AIMED SENSE OF PARODY...A RUTHLESS RIOT!"
—Kevin Kelly, Boston Globe

FORBIDDEN BROADWAY

1987
357-8384

GROUP SALES
426-6444
542-1701

THE TERRACE ROOM
AT THE BOSTON PARK PLAZA

• INDIVIDUAL
GROUP/COUPLE
• GAY SENSITIVE
THERAPY

ALLAN SINGER,
L.I.C.S.W.
PSYCHOTHERAPIST

COPLEY SQUARE
BOSTON, MA
617-266-2240
HEALTH INSURANCE ACCEPTED

617-776-5866

Somerville, Mass.

Lynne S. Brandon, Ph.D.
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Long-range Planning, State Contracting,
Budgeting, Staff Training & Supervision,
Conversion to Computerized Systems

- Non-Profit Agencies
- Small Businesses
- Sole Proprietors

BUSINESS GUIDE

ACCOMODATIONS

OASIS GUEST HOUSE
22 Edgerly Road
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 267-2262

ACUPUNCTURE

RONALD KELTER
Acupuncture Associates of Cambridge
843 Mass. Ave., Central Sq.
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-491-4410

ALCOHOL/DRUG TREATMENT

SPOFFORD HALL
Route 9A
Spofford, NH 03462
(603) 363-4545

AUDITING/TAXES

LILLIAN GONZALES
Certified Public Accountant
126 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
523-1060

AUDIO-VISUAL

SAMDPERIL AUDIO-VISUAL
23 Clive St.
Boston, MA 02130
524-7992

BICYCLES

FERRIS WHEELS
Bicycle Shop
64 South Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
617-522-7082

BOOKSTORES

GLAD DAY BOOKSTORE
43 Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 542-0144

NEW WORDS
A WOMAN'S BOOKSTORE
186 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
876-5310

REDBOOK STORE
Books of Political Struggle,
South Africa, Central America,
Gay & Lesbian literature
92 Green St.
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
(617) 522-1464

CATERING

AS YOU LIKE IT
Affordable Catering
for All Occasions
321-3475

CHIROPRACTORS

DR. RITA L. FIELD
HARMONY CHIROPRACTIC
699 Somerville Av.
Somerville, MA 02143
628-9547

DR. TIMOTHY KNIGHT
1122 Massachusetts Ave.
Arlington, MA 02174
(617) 731-3306

DR. DAVID MOULTON
Suite 333
45 Newbury St.
Boston, MA 02116
266-8584

DR. JONATHAN STEIN
375 Harvard Street
Brookline, MA 02146
232-7200

DR. DAVID STOLER
Chiropractor
SOMA Practitioner
124 Harvard St. No.3
Brookline, MA 02146
(617) 731-3306

COUNSELING

ARADIA COUNSELING FOR WOMEN
520 Commonwealth Av.
Kenmore Square
Boston, MA 02115
247-4861

BACK BAY COUNSELING
DENNIS IADAROLA
25 Huntington Av.
Boston, MA 02116
739-7860

PATRICIA A. BURKE, LICSW
ADDICTION TREATMENT/
FAMILY THERAPY
10 Goodway Road
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
522-9446

ENTRANCES AND EXITS
PSYCHOTHERAPY FOR WOMEN, COUPLES AND CHILDREN
Jill Richard, LICSW
1130 Mass. Ave., Harvard Sq.
Cambridge, MA 02138
776-6158

FOCUS COUNSELING & CONSULTATION INC.
186 1/2 Hampshire St
Cambridge, MA 02139
876-4488

STEPHEN J. GOLDBURGH
ED.D
Licensed Psychologist
1330 Beacon St., Suite 231
Brookline, MA 02146
(617) 734-6996

DAYCARE

BARB'S FAMILY DAYCARE
State Licensed
Beacon Hill, Boston, MA 02114
523-3772

DENTISTRY

DR. RICHARD BANKHEAD
DR. PAUL GROIPEN
1259 Hyde Park Av.
Hyde Park, MA 02136
364-5500

JOHN BARNA & AMY WETTER
790 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02199
353-1500

DOG TRAINING

FAMILY DOG TRAINING CENTER
Dog Behavior Specialists
Medford, MA
395-9084

ELECTROLYSIS

JUDY FEINER
Complimentary consultation
Computer electrolysis specialist
Central Sq., Cambridge
497-2019

FLORISTS

REMEMBRANCES FLORAL DESIGN
12 Mt. Auburn St.
Watertown Sq., MA
926-4289

GYMS

BODYWORKS GYM
53 River Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
576-1493

HEALTH

BOSTON HEALTH ASSOCIATES
Holistic Health Referral Service
Psychotherapy, Bodywork,
Movement, Nutrition and
Spiritual Counseling
266-8122 M-Th., 12-7

FENWAY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
16 Haviland Street
Boston, MA 02115
267-7573

FEMINIST HEALTH CENTER OF PORTSMOUTH
232 Court St.
Portsmouth, NH 03801
(603) 436-7588
STD clinic for men and women
Mon. eves.: free anon, HIV
counseling & testing

INSURANCE

DAVID L. COLLINS, CLU
Suite 830
50 Congress St.
Boston, MA 02109
1-800-352-3185

KUNEVICH & LAU INSURANCE AGENCY
241 Washington St.
Brookline, MA 02146
731-1015

NANCY GREENWOOD
40 Hampshire St.
Lawrence, MA 01840
683-7676

LAWYERS

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
Lawyers Referral Service
227-7008
M-F 1-5 p.m.

MASSAGE

MIDTOWN HEALTH CLUB
Swedish, Japanese, Esalen
220 Huntington Ave.
(617) 262-1000, x 298
M-Sat., 12-7

MOVERS

APPLETON MOVING CO.
(formerly Boston Trucking)
641-1234

OPTOMETRY

RACHELLE S. DUBEY, O.D.
DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY
Hours by Appointment
10 Diauto Drive
Randolph, MA
(617) 963-1333

PHOTOGRAPHY

DAVID'S PHOTOGRAPHY
PO Box 375 McCormack Sta.
Boston, MA 02101
236-0365

PIANO TUNING/REPAIR

PIANO TECH
25 Peterborough St. #29
Boston, MA 02215
536-0526

PRINTING

RED SUN PRESS
94 Green St
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
524-6822

REAL ESTATE

BOSTON BAY REALTY
668 Tremont St.
Boston, MA 02118
262-7386

INNOVATIVE MOVES
REAL ESTATE
Full Service Brokerage
Trisha Solio, Barry Wing
351 Centre St.
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
(617) 522-0020

TAXES & FINANCIAL PLANNING

MARJORIE E. POSNER
Cert. Financial Planner
33 Ashcroft St.
Jamaica Pl., MA 02130
524-7565

TRAVEL

FOREX TRAVEL
76 Arlington St.
Boston Park Plaza
482-2900

CLASSIFIEDS

SPECIAL PLACE IN WEST ROXBURY

Two lesbians seek third roommate. Three bedroom, quiet, clean apt. Safe neighborhood on bus route, near commuter rail. No pets, no security deposit. \$300/monthly negotiable, plus utilities. 327-9853. (21)

LF and dog seek same to share 4 bedroom house in safe, quiet, multi-racial neighborhood on Dochester/ Mattapan line. Convenient to Ashmont. Prefer graduate student or working lesbian over 25. Child & pets welcome. \$300 + 1/3 utilities. Call evenings 296-2411. (20)

JP GF 29 seeks same 25+ . 1 or 2 rooms \$350/\$400 negotiable incl HtHW. Have cat, no more pets. Prfr nonsmkr, indep, resp, perm/temp. Rochelle 524-0754. (20)

LF seeks same 26+ for quiet sunny 2 bdrm apt. Teele Square, Somerville. Petless, smokeless \$250+. 628-3216. (20)

CAMBRIDGE HOUSE

Large bedroom in small house with large sunny yard, parking, near bus/T. Two considerate communicative LF's in early 40's seek similar LF, warm, flexible, non-smoking over 30 for supportive home environment. \$208 + . December or January 1st. Call 354-3399. (21)

3 LF's and cat seek LF 27+ for spacious 4 bedroom house with yard, Inman Sq. Somerville. Non-smoker wanted for semi-coop, politically progressive, independent household. \$182 + . 876-3216. (20)

APARTMENTS

LESBIAN ROOMING HOUSE

Historic Lesbian Rooming House in Northampton, MA seeks responsible mature women to fill vacancies. Shared kitchen, common area, and bathrooms. \$200.00/month. For information, call Sally, 413-586-7440. (22)

REALESTATE

BACK BAY/ SYMPHONY AREA 5 FABULOUS designer 1&2 BR duplexes & fl-thrus some w/phallie columns. Top quality constr. Attention to detail. 2 BR PENTHOUSE w/18 ft ceiling w/skylights & loft. Sunken tub w/dual shower heads for water sport fun. 2 decks & much more. All w/fireplaces, decks Eur-kitchens, & in-unit wash/dry. Look at gorgeous bodies in the neighborhood before you buy somewhere else! PRICES HAVE BEEN DROPPED! From \$155,000. FREE 1st year condo fee! No broker's fees. By owner. Call Scott or Oscar 426-8919. (20)

RESORTS

LADY JANE'S INN — PROVINCETOWN

Newly built, ideally located and open year 'round! Private baths, spacious rooms, separate outside entrances and free parking. Continental breakfasts, common area with TV and VCR. (617) 487-3387. 7 Central Street, Provincetown, MA 02657. (27)

WINTER WONDERLAND

Come ski our miles of X-country trails, then unwind in our hot tub. Spacious, fireplaced common areas & charming guest rooms await you. Downhill skiing & sleigh rides nearby. Mid-week discounts! The Highlands Inn, Box 118-G Bethelchem, NH 03574. (603) 869-3978. Grace and Judi, Innkeepers.

-Ski country's only all-gay inn-

CHECK'ER OUT

AT THE CHECK'ER INN

Double rooms, coffee by fireside, parking. Apartments also available. 1 block to hay, open year'round. 487-9029, 25 Winthrop St., P'town, MA 02657 (20)

PUBLICATIONS

THE MARGARITA POEMS

"Revolutionary in form and content" - Cheryl Clark
"The most lyrical thing I have read in years" -Margorie Agosin-
Order from Luzma Umpierre, PO Box 1703 New Brunswick, N.J. 08903. \$10.00. Proceeds go to her defense in a discrimination case against Rutgers University. (20)

BLACK/OUT

The new quarterly magazine from the National coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, features news, views, reviews, poetry, short fiction and announcements of interest to the national Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy, \$4, 1 yr. subscription, (4 issues) \$10. To: Black/Out., NCBLG, P.O. Box 2490, Washington, DC 20013. (ex)

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree-who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1; sub \$5; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, -263G, SF, CA 94114. (V15.21)

GUARDIAN:Independent radical newsweekly. Covers Gay, women and minority struggles and international progressive movements. Special offer-4 issues FREE. Write Guardian, Dept GCN, 33W 17th St. NY, NY 10011. (ex)

off our backs

Celebrating 15 years of radical feminist journalism. We bring feminist national/ international news analysis and reviews each month. \$11 year, 11 issues. (\$15 for contributing subs) \$20 institutional fee. Sample-\$3 for 3 issues! Write 'off our backs' Dept GCN, 1841 Columbia Rd. NW, Room 212 Washington, DC 20009. (ex)

OUTRAGEOUS WOMEN

National journal of woman-to-woman S/M. Diverse feminist quarterly of S/M fact, fiction and photos. \$11/yr. Single issues \$3. Must state you are over 18. SASE for info. PO Box 23, Somerville MA 02143. (ex)

WOMAN OF POWER: A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics," an inspiring international quarterly publication. Subscriptions \$22 for 4 issues; singles issues \$6 plus \$1 postage. P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238, telephone (617) 625-7885. (ex)

ON OUR BACKS, the sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 48 pages of erotic fiction, features, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique and provocative. \$15/yr sub or \$5 current issue to: On Our Backs, PO Box 421916, San Francisco, CA 94142. (ex)

NEW BOOKS

PERVERTS BY OFFICIAL ORDER

The Campaign Against Homosexuals by the United States Navy

By Lawrence R. Murphy

Gay historian Lawrence R. Murphy graphically documents the U.S. government's campaign against homosexuals during the period following World War I. The U.S. Navy conducted a campaign against homosexuals that represents a gross violation of the rights of American citizens in matters of private and public conscience. Gripping and pertinent reading! \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 0-918393-44-2. Available December 1987.

Harrington Park Press, Inc.
12 West 32nd Street, New York, NY 10001

ORGANIZATIONS

GAY YOUTH COMMUNITY FUND

Sponsors of youth/student projects send tax-deductable donations payable to: GYCC/Capp St. Foundation. Mail to: GYCF, 2215-R Market St., Suite 479, San Francisco, CA 94114. (15.30)

JEWISH LESBIAN DAUGHTERS OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

We meet for support & networking and welcome contact from other *Jewish Lesbian Daughters of Holocaust Survivors*. The next meeting is scheduled for April 22nd-24th, in upstate New Hampshire, and semi-annually thereafter. A *partners group* has also been formed for lesbian women who are in relationship with JLDHS. Membership is not dependent on both partners. For information, write Box 6194, Boston, MA 02114 or call (617) 321-4254. (15.49)

BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:00. Women's meeting at 6:45. Call 482-7858 for info. (14.32)

MAN/BOY LOVE

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD at 537 Jones ST. NO 8418, S.F. CA 94102 or PO Box 174, New York, New York 10018. (15.23)

OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (15.48)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people . Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 580 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114.

MOVERS

From \$18 / hr.

- MAXI-VANS
- CARGO MASTER TRUCKS
- HOMES • BUSINESSES
- 24 HOUR DELIVERY
- LIC. and INS.

236-1848

POOR PEOPLES MOVERS

new & used boxes delivered
packing and storing

522-0826

(15.20)

THE JIM CLARK MOVING COMPANY

Serving the Gay Community with professionalism and respect
Very careful furniture movers.
Piano and hoisting specialists.
Any time of the day-any day of the year.
No overtime charges, 354-2184
MPDU Number 23733 (1)

APPLETON MOVING CO., INC.

(formerly, Boston Trucking Co.)
MA DPU#25522
No job too big or too small
Very careful movers 641-1234

(15.1)

ALL AMERICAN MOVERS

Careful, Quick & Kind
Store, Pack, Move-Home & Office
Mention this ad for a discount
Russ 321-7037 or 322-7373 Pat

for pets
that have been
very,
very good

creature comforts®
custom pet apparel

Call or write for brochure.

554 JERUSALEM RD • COHASSET • MA • 02025 617 • 383 • 9135

GAYELLOW PAGES

INFORMING THE GAY COMMUNITY SINCE 1973. Accommodations, AA groups, bars, baths, bookstores, businesses, counselors, dentists, doctors, hotels, lawyers, mail order, media, publications, organizations, religious groups, services, social groups, switchboards, therapists, travel agents, etc., etc., etc. . . (area codes and zip codes too!)

USA & CANADA \$10

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY \$4.50; includes Manhattan bar notes & women's section.

SOUTHERN EDITION \$4.50; Alabama, Arkansas, N. & S. Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia.

NORTHEAST EDITION \$4.50; Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, W. Virginia.

Renaissance House, Box 292GCN Village Station, NY, NY 10014 212-674-0120. All books discreetly by first class mail, your name kept strictly confidential. To list a business or organization, or for further information, send stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope. Please contact us for prices outside the USA. In Canada, order from Glad Day Books, 598 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1Z3 416-961-4161 (check for prices)

Ask us about Gayellow Pages on mailing labels!

JOHN GRAVES
Ph.D.

13 Years Gay Affirmative Counseling
for the Community



Phone
(617)
266-2069

42 THE FENWAY
BOSTON, MA 02215

ATTENTION

Display and Classified
Advertising

Deadline for Vol. 15, No. 25
(December 27-January 2, 1988)
is Friday noon, Dec. 25



Minerva
Graphics

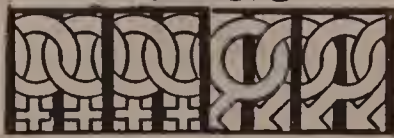
491-4110

GRAPHIC DESIGN
TYPESETTING
PRINTING

10 Magazine Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

(Magazine and Green Streets, Central Square)

Prisoners Seeking Friends



TO ALL THOSE, IN & OUT OF PRISON,
WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE.

Alexander Berkman, *Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist*

Prisoner-friends,
Letters are POURING in here in response to my yearly letter to see if everyone is still getting GCN, (Remember: write by Nov. 30!) AND

I'm going away for a few weeks . . . SO, some of your letters and other concerns will be later-than-usual in getting attention.
PLEASE BE PATIENT. (I'm doing my best to keep up!) Later, Mike.

FREE BOOKS (for prisoners)!!

This is the kind of project that anyone can start, for a particular prison or state, for example. Prisoners have lots of time on their hands and especially need educational material and some entertainment to keep from going crazy. They show amazing gratitude for your efforts. We hope to have a pamphlet on tricks-of-the-trade in getting one started soon. Write us for info.)

The 2 projects that exist already (2! Can you believe it! For a half million prisoners! With prison libraries quickly being converted to dorms as prisons expand faster than they can get the money to build new ones.):

*Prison Book Program, 92 Green St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
*Books for Prisoners, 92 Pike St., Seattle, WA 98101.

Both programs are often very far (months) behind, so please be very patient if you are requesting books. (And please consider sending a donation for postage, if you are an outsider and are able. THANK YOU!)



Lonely woman in prison would like to make some penfriends out there. Please write Lisa GRIMSHAW, 205 Rocky Hill Rd, Northampton, MA 01060.

I'm requesting to receive your newspaper and also a female penpal on the outside, because this place doesn't allow us to write other prisoners. Thank you. Sherrell MORTON, 7390, Box 180, Muncy PA 17756.

I'm a transsexual, honey chocolate cinnamon brown. Very beautiful and fancy free. However, I'm lonely, looking for a penpal. My hobbies are fashion, topless dancing and one-to-one friendship. Michelle TURNER, 2-B, 40 S. Alabama St., Indianapolis IN 46204.



HOLIDAY BLUES (AGAIN)

Whatever your feelings about the holidays, it's an extremely lonely time for prisoners, especially if they aren't near friends (which most aren't). So please consider sending a note of 'cheer' to some of the people listed in the penpal space, even if you don't intend to be a penpal. (If you don't, mention that you just want to send a note of 'community solidarity' (or whatever) in these "hard times". (thanks)



GCN Prisoners!!!

At some point in December, the paper will stop coming to those of you who haven't responded to my letter asking if you're still getting it.

If you haven't seen the letter, maybe they have thrown it away . . . SO write me anyway (smile), if you're getting it and want to keep it that way. (NOW!) (please) (thanks) (Mike)



THANK YOU GCN for helping me find a penpal who is helping me find a way (job, housing, legal help) OUT OF HERE! I'm hoping to return to the funeral/embalming business when out and would like a penpal who is in the business that I can "talk shop" with. Michael PARROTT, 13941, Box 14, Boise ID 83707. PS. I have a friend in here who would also like a penpal and some help finding work so he can get out of here too eventually. He is a carpenter/cabinet maker. His name is Danny 'Texas' KNIGHTEN. His address is Box 14, Boise ID 83707. Thanks again.

THE MOON AND STARS ARE BUT A PHANTOM MEMORY ON THE CEILING OF MY CELL . . . I need a friend to write to. I'm reaching out for someone to share memories and thoughts with. Please write. Greg TITTLE, 186-928, Box 4571, Lima OH 45802.

If you have ever felt an ounce of loneliness in your heart, then you will understand my plea. I'd be very happy to hear from anyone out there. Ben STUMP, 871119, Box 41, Michigan City IN 46360.



Lonely gay male seeking serious correspondence with other gays. Interests range from rock music and CW to politics, writing letters and sexual pleasures. No prisoners, please, unless approved in advance. Kenneth SHERRY, 6319, Box 473, Westville IN 46391. They call me "Sweet thing" and I would dearly like to have someone of our kind to write to. Allen WILLIAMS, C-09851, Box 2000 W-135, Vacaville CA 95696.

I'm writing in request of your latest magazine and also a copy of Fag Rag, and if possible someone to correspond with. Thanks. Kenneth CASON, 75512, MSU 8-24, Tucker AR 72168.

Hobbies: I love camping and fishing and just about anything that you can do outside, and being with someone who also enjoys it. I would love to correspond with a caring person about what's happening outside (!) Michael WADKINS, Rt 1 Box 36, Jackson NC 27845.

Lonely gay male into poetry, books, people, would like someone to write. James E. KOZIOL, A-72017, Box 711, Menard IL 62259



Calendar

18 SATURDAY TO
13 SUNDAY

5 Saturday ☐ Former Girls Night Out vocalist Didi Stewart (pictured) and friends perform in a benefit for six community groups including GCN. Villa Victoria Cultural Center. 9pm to 1:30am. \$10/\$6. Info: 426-4469.



28 Saturday

Boston ☐ **Solidarity day for Women, Inc.**, residential drug and alcohol program for women and children. Join the fight to keep Women, Inc. alive: "drop a buck in the bucket" and/or "stand up and be counted." Church of the United Community, 116 Roxbury St. 10-4pm. Info: 427-0551 from 6-10pm.

Medford ☐ **Strange Fire** by Indigo Girls album feature on "Something about the Women" WMFO 91.5 FM. 10-2pm.

29 Sunday

Boston ☐ Gail Dines-Levy speaks on "Pornography — the Propaganda of Misogyny." Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St. Service at 11am.

Boston ☐ **Rock against Sexism** monthly disc party. 1270 Club, 1270 Boylston. 6-10pm. \$2. Info: 734-1672.

Waltham ☐ "Music for Life" **AIDS benefit** concert aired on WCRB 102.5 FM. With Leonard Bernstein, James Levine, Yo-Yo Ma, Luciano Pavarotti and Leontyne Price. 10am.

Boston ☐ Rev. **Ed Hougen** speaks about the Committee for Civil Liberties and Sexual Freedom on "Boston's Other Voice." WROR, 98.5 FM. 12:30am (Monday morning).

30 Monday

Worcester ☐ Virginia Rubino and the Boy From Mars perform **reggae/funk/latin/punk** at the Coffee Kingdom, Richmond and Pleasant Sts. 8pm. Hat passed. Info: 755-8936.

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Al/Anon with childcare.** The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8pm. Info: 354-8807.

Boston ☐ "Handling the Holidays" series of workshops for parents/families of lesbians and gays and for lesbians and gays. Mondays (through December 14) and Saturdays (December 5 and 12). Jean Chapin Smith, LICSW. Info: 876-2113.

December 1 Tuesday

Boston ☐ "Consequences of HIV Testing in Short and Long Term Treatment." A presentation by Marshall Forstein, MD for mental health professionals. Mass. Mental Health Center Chapel, 74 Fenwood Rd. Small donation for the AIDS Action Committee requested. Info: Jay, 735-4613.

Cambridge ☐ DOB Forum presents "Women & Spirituality" with Charlotte Wasserman and Pat Schwartz. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Haverhill, MA ☐ **Support/social group forming for lesbians** in Haverhill/Lawrence and surrounding southern New Hampshire towns. 7pm. Info: 521-2239.

Cambridge ☐ **Healing Service** for all those affected by AIDS. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Massachusetts Ave. 7:30pm. Info: 864-9275.

2 Wednesday

Cambridge ☐ Author **Calvin Hernton** discusses his new book **Black Women Writers and the Sexual Mountain** on "Say It, Sister!" WMBR, 88.1 FM. 7-8pm.

Boston ☐ **Third Annual Boston Against AIDS benefit** with Cher, Little Richard, Phyllis Hyman, O-Positive and Raquel Welch. The Metro, 15 Landsdowne. 9pm. \$50-\$100. Info: AIDS Action Committee; 266-6906.

Cambridge ☐ "Lesbian Parenting: Clinical Explorations." In the 2nd annual Focus on the Family speakers series at Gutman Conference Center, Harvard University. 8-9pm. \$10. Info: 876-4488.

3 Thursday

Cambridge ☐ **DOB women of color concerns.** DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Natick, MA ☐ **Lesbian Rights Task Force of NOW** — South Middlesex County political/social network meeting on "Lesbian Strategies for the Holidays." 21 Bay State Road. 7:30pm. Info: 651-9746.

4 Friday

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbians 50 and older/younger.** DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

5 Saturday

Boston ☐ **Anniversary Party** for six lesbian/gay and progressive community organizations, including GCN. Dance, laugh and rap with performers Didi Stewart and friends, United Fruit Co., and Grace Paley. Villa Victoria Cultural Center. 9pm to 1:30am. \$10 or \$6/low income. Info: 426-4469. (see back page ad for more details.)

Boston ☐ "Current **Sociopolitical and Policy Issues Concerning HIV Populations.**" Presentation by Larry Kessler, director of the AIDS Action Committee. Mass. Mental Health Center Chapel, 74 Fenwood Rd. Small donation for the AIDS Action Committee will be requested. Info: Jay, 735-4613.

Cambridge ☐ Lesbian couples discuss "Is Hetero Marriage a Good Model?" DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

New Hampshire ☐ **New Hampshire Lambda's anniversary/Christmas party.** Pat's Peak. Pot luck. 6-8pm. Dancing 8pm-1am. Info: (603) 746-3339

Amherst, MA ☐ **Annual Lesbian Home Show.** Hampshire College Red Barn, Route 116. Open to all women featuring display and sale of food and art by lesbians. Sponsored by the Hampshire College Lesbian Alliance and Women's Center. Show 11am-5pm, followed by a dinner theater 5:30-8:30pm and a dance from 9pm-1am. Admission charge for the dance only.

Boston ☐ **StreetSAFE toy sale** at the Huntington YMCA, 316 Huntington Ave. All proceeds benefit StreetSAFE. 10am-2pm. Info: 262-0060.

Cambridge ☐ 7th annual **Women's Craft Market** grand opening. Market will run first three weekends in December, plus Dec. 21-24. Downstairs at 186 Hampshire St. Hours are Saturday Dec. 21-23, 11am-5pm, and Sundays noon-5pm. Free.

6 Sunday

Boston ☐ **Wild Women walk** Newbury St. and Gardner Museum. Meet at 10am, outside Arlington St. subway. Info: Sarah, 536-0752.

Boston ☐ **Women's Jazz Cabaret** with Ellis O'Donnell Quartet plus Henrietta Robinson Quartet. Villa Victoria, 85 W. Newton St. 7:30-10:30pm. \$8/door, \$6/advance. Wheelchair accessible. Info: 397-8311.

Cambridge ☐ **Women in Film and Video/New England Chapter, December Holidays** (Kwanza, Chanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas and New Year's) featuring the original R&B music of Barry Marshall and the Rocking Robbins, and Boston's best Carribean food. Charlie's Tap Jazz Club, 280 Green St. 7-12pm. \$15/cash bar. Info: 876-3821.

Cambridge ☐ "Still Killing Us Softly." Premier of Jean Kilbourne's new film concerning advertising's image of women (filmmaker will be present). Brattle Theater, Brattle St. 1pm. Benefit for Boston NOW. \$25-6 sliding scale. Info: 782-1056.

7 Monday

Cambridge ☐ "2,000 down; 48,000 to go." Candlelight Vigil and march sponsored by the Coalition for a Nuclear Test Ban. 5:30-7:30pm. Gather at the Cambridge Common and march to the Cambridge City Hall. Info: 354-0008.

Boston ☐ "Support groups for friends and lovers of PWAs" discussion sponsored by gay and lesbian issues committee of the National Assn. of Social Workers. Open to all social workers and social work students. 7pm. Info: 227-9635.

Jamaica Plain ☐ **Gay and Lesbian Labor Activists Network** gather for planning meeting at Doyle's Cafe, 3484 Washington St. 6:30-8:30pm. Meet in back. Info: Ralph, 661-8289.

Boston ☐ **Tax resistance clinic** offered by New England War Tax Resistance (the first Monday of every month Oct.-June). For people conscientiously opposed to paying for war. Community Church, 3rd fl., 565 Boylston St. 7-9pm. Info: 731-6139.

8 Tuesday

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian coming out rap.** DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Haverhill, MA ☐ **Support/social group forming for lesbians** in Haverhill/Lawrence and surrounding southern New Hampshire towns. 7pm. Info: 521-2239.

10 Thursday

Newton ☐ "The Politics of AIDS: Are We Blaming the Victims?" Sponsored by the Newton Human Rights Commission. Newton North High School Auditorium. 7:45-9:45pm. Free. Info: 552-7170.

13 Sunday

Jamaica Plain ☐ **Freedom Trail Band Holiday concert.** Unitarian Church of Jamaica Plain, Eliot and Centre Sts. Potluck at 4pm; concert at 5:30pm. Free, donations welcome.

NATIONAL CALENDAR

4 Friday ☐ **New York City** ☐ A benefit for **COOL** (Committee of Outraged Lesbians) at Tracks, 531 W. 19th St., and 12th Ave. 7-10pm. Admission \$\$, drinks half-price, men welcome. COOL formed in response to what they charge are the racist admission policies of Shescape, a New York women's production company.

5 Friday and 6 Saturday ☐ **New York City** ☐ "Not Necessarily Christmas Holiday Concert" with the Lesbian and Gay Big Apple Corps Symphonic Band, the New Amsterdam Dixieland Jazz Band and the Wicked Stepsisters Tap Troupe. Katie Murphy Amphitheatre, Fashion Institute of Technology, Seventh Ave. at W. 27th St. 8pm. \$13/advance, \$16/door. Tickets at Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookstore, A Different Light and the Candleshop. Wheelchair accessible. Info: (212) 869-2922

CALENDAR COMPILED BY
BARNABY FISHER

Harpies Bizarre. Directed by Lydia Sargent. With Lydia Sargent, Michele Markarian and Patricia Beatson. Newbury Street Theater, 565 Boylston. Through Dec. 19.

By Monica Hileman

Harpies Bizarre is a feminist satire of the religious right that also pokes fun at today's independent women, politically correct lesbians, anything left of Ozzie and Harriet, Hollywood movies and whatever else fell into the script during a seven-week improvisational rehearsal period. It is something of a satire soup, much of it reminiscent of other Lydia Sargent productions performed by the all-woman cast of the Newbury Street Theater.

Audience members entering the theater are accosted by the character of Jerry Pays-

theatre

well (Sargent) and his darling wife, Mary Mag Sue Fay Ray May Day Hey (imagine if Jerry Falwell had somebody like Tammy Fay Bakker by his side.) Why wasn't I wearing make up, Jerry and Mary wanted to know? Why wasn't I escorted by a man? Where were all the couples? Welcome to Jerry Payswell's Free World City of God's Love where the weekly broadcast of "Listen Up America" is about to begin. The Rev. Payswell and his all-gal choir are there to put out the message: "People, people, you are scummy! So scummy that Jesus Christ doesn't even love you, and he loves everybody!" The problem, according to Payswell, is that the women don't behave like good gals and the men let them get away with it. Jerry orders the different sections of the audience to stand up and be chastised for their sinfulness, insisting, "You have to obey orders when you come in here!"

The most enjoyable parts of the play are those involving audience participation. Women who don't stand when told to are accused of being butch dykes and the men called wimps. It's fun to be in a mixed space where lesbians are acknowledged with playful dyke-baiting. In the second part of the play, Jerry asks the non-heterosexual couples in the audience — which happened on this particular night to be mostly young women with short hair — to have one of

Harpies Bizarre pokes fun at evangelicals, the modern woman and a lesbian or two

HARPIES BIZARRE

A FEMINIST SATIRE



them pretend to be a man: "That shouldn't be too hard for you gals in the second row."

By contrast, the good gals in the choir are self-acclaimed bimbos. And proud of it! When they're not home taking care of their husband and kids, they're doing thankless tasks for Rev. Payswell. They do little commercial messages for the organization of good gals, sort of like the National Dairy Association's T.V. spots for milk. "Good gals are always waiting for something...for daddy to come home...for the phone to ring...for him to propose..." Mary Mag

Sue, chief good gal, takes a special interest in the Free World City of God's Love Home for Harlots. This is a place where pregnant teenage gals can go, sure that the staff will place babies in good homes. They have a list of "loving mature Christian families waiting for white babies," she explains.

In Jerry's Tot Lot the kids learn that boys grow up to be people and girls grow up to be good. Although this skit has been altered and somewhat updated (there's the line: Boys grow up to be presidents — to which the "boys" respond "I knew nothing

about it.''), it's right out of another Sargent satire, *I Read About My Death In Vogue Magazine*. Much of the material in *Harpies* feels recycled. Some of the satire is also confusing. At times the point of view seems to be that of the Christian Right characters, at others that of the lefty feminist authors. During the "Bitches in Business" segment, I struggled to understand who the characters were supposed to be: critical men or the career women they criticized. Costumes didn't help clarify the matter.

The segment called "Harpies in the Bizarre" is a satire of sexually suggestive advertising. Women flutter onto the stage spouting lines of ad copy, "I am made of blue sky (I sit by a pool shaped like a uterus.)" "...and I'm worth it," "share the fantasy" etc. This segment, like others in the play, repeats the same thing over and over without taking us anywhere new.

"Men's Rights and Shit" contains one of the funniest bits. A host of male characters explain why broads can't be equal. One calmly demonstrates his point. He punches one of the broads in the face. She falls to the floor, and he says, "How can broads be equal when I can beat the shit outta 'em, huh? So shut the fuck up." As I said, one of the best bits, but it wasn't that funny the third time around.

I'm thankful the Newbury Theater exists; it's one of the few places we can go to laugh at the absurdities of the Reagan administration, the religious Right and other small-minded phenomena. But one of the things that makes for good satire is freshness. The Newbury Street Theater needs some new material unless they intend their productions for newer audiences, say high school kids. Actually, parts of *Harpies Bizarre* might be ideal for today's high school girls. But that doesn't seem to be the audience they have in mind.

For dykes of any age who attend the play, you might be interested in knowing that it ends with two lesbians transformed into a straight Christian couple. That's the Only way Jerry and his god could love us. Praise the Lord.

TEN PERCENT REVUE

WORDS AND MUSIC BY
TOM WILSON WEINBERG

After two successful seasons in Provincetown, Tom Wilson Weinberg's musical celebration of lesbian and gay love, life and culture has finally come to Boston. Ten Percent Revue is opening the all-new Club Cabaret, at the Club Cafe.

Opening night is November 19th and the show runs for three weeks thru December 6th. Performances are Tuesday thru Sunday, except for November 22nd and December 1st. All performances are at 7:30 pm, including a special Thanksgiving Day performance.

For show information and to make reservations call 536-0972. Or stop by the Box Office.

Club
CABARET

209 Columbus Avenue, at Berkeley St.
Boston, MA 02117

An anniversary party not to be missed!
Laugh, Dance, Rap
&

CELEBRATE
125 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY
AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Mobilization for Survival	10 years!
Gay Community News	15 years!
South End Press	10 years!
Resist	20 years!
National Lawyer's Guild	50 years!
Radical America	20 years!

EMCEES

CINDY PATTON and CONNIE CHAN

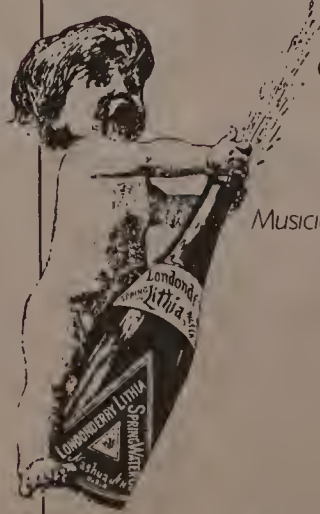
PERFORMERS

DIDI STEWART & FRIENDS

Musicians Didi Stewart*, Cercie Miller*, Joel Mulholland,
Kim Pandapas, David Patt
(* FORMERLY OF GIRLS NIGHT OUT)

UNITED FRUIT COMPANY
gay comedy/theater group

GRACE PALEY
writer/activist



Saturday, December 5, 1987
9pm to 1:30am

Villa Victoria Cultural Center
85 West Newton Street, Boston
NEAR COPLEY AND BACK BAY T FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



Tickets: \$10, \$6 low income

Available at Glad Day, Redbook, New Words, Mobe and GCN
or by mail by Monday, Nov. 30 to: Mobilization for Survival, 11 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138
Sponsors: please make tax deductible \$25 check payable to Survival Education Fund, Inc.

CALL FOR CHILDCARE BY NOVEMBER 30

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 426-4469 OR 354-0008